

Hawaii MARINE SPORTS

HAWAII MARINE C SECTION

FEBRUARY 16, 2007



Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree

Kansas City Chiefs' running back, Larry Johnson, avoids being tackled during the 2007 Pro Bowl game Saturday, at Aloha Stadium in Honolulu. See additional game-day photos on C-2.

Warriors watch athletes show skills

Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree
Combat Correspondent

KOOLINA, Hawaii — Service members stationed on the island of Oahu had the chance to watch players from the National Football League participate in a skills competition Feb. 8 at the J.W. Marriot's Ihilani Resort.

The players participated in the 2007 edition of the Pro Bowl Skills Challenge, a competition where players from both the American Football Conference and the National Football Conference competed to be the best of the best in several categories.

Wounded warriors assigned to 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, were grateful they had the opportunity to come to this event, after coming back home from Iraq with injuries sustained while participating in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"We were able to get tickets from our command," said Darrel

See SKILLS, C-3



Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree

Atlanta Falcons' cornerback, DeAngelo Hall, makes his way through an obstacle course during the Open Field event of the National Football League's Pro Bowl Skills Challenge, Feb. 8, at the J.W. Marriot Ihilani resort in Koolina, Hawaii.



Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree

Service members in a Joint Service Color Guard prepare to march out on the field for the opening ceremony for the 2007 Pro Bowl at Aloha Stadium in Honolulu.

Military support abundant at Aloha Stadium's 2007 Pro Bowl

Cpl. Richard Trevino
Community Relations Chief

Perhaps one of the loudest roars that could be heard Saturday erupting from Aloha Stadium was when volunteers from Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, alongside volunteers from the other military services were thanked by the National Football League for their support during this year's Pro Bowl game.

Approximately 105 Marine Corps volunteers from K-Bay were directly involved with providing support for the all-star football game, assisting with both pre-game and halftime shows. There were 85 Marines who contributed to the efforts by erecting a massive stage for the halftime performances in record time, while 22 other Marines lent a helping hand during the pre-game team and player introduc-

tions by carrying team flags. Some of the pre-game volunteers were also on hand to help roll out a flag the length of the football field for the singing of the National Anthem.

Timothy LeMaster, coordinator for the pre-game military support, was satisfied with the overall performance of the Marine volunteers, as well as the volunteers from the other services.

"It went great," said LeMaster, a Marine Corps officer from K-Bay. "Everyone out there was excited and looking forward to being part of the event."

The Marine volunteers weren't just out there for their own benefit. They were representing their comrades who are forward deployed to combat zones such as Iraq.

"We were representing them," he explained. "Today everyone either has deployed or knows people deployed. They

were in this show because of them."

"It was for the Marines that couldn't make it," said Irwin Gregorio, one of the Marine volunteers for the pre-game show. "It means a lot to me that I got the chance to do that."

Gregorio said he was thrilled with the experience of being part of such a huge event.

"I absolutely loved (volunteering) and I can't wait to do it again next year," he said.

However, the opportunity to be a part of something this big is special.

"It is also a great volunteer opportunity simply because it isn't often any American can be part of a major NFL event," said Gregorio. "It is one of those life experiences they can tell their grandkids about."

See SUPPORT, C-2

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Upper Left: Indianapolis Colts' quarterback Peyton Manning prepares to pass the ball during the 2007 Pro Bowl game Feb. 10 at Aloha Stadium in Honolulu.

Above: Cincinnati Bengals' quarterback Carson Palmer hands the ball off to the National Football League's most valuable player San Diego Chargers' running back LaDainian Tomlinson.

Far Left: Arizona Cardinals' wide receiver, Anquan Boldin, jumps up to attempt a touchdown pass while Denver Broncos' Champ Bailey attempts to disrupt the pass.

Left: New York Jets' cornerback Justin Miller is brought down by Chicago Bears' defensive back Devin Hester after Miller received the punt.

Photos by Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree

Pro Bowl players get a taste of military life

Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree
Combat Correspondent

The National Football League's Pro Bowl, an all-star game between the National Football Conference and American Football Conference, is one of the biggest events to happen on the island of Oahu. As players arrived on island to get ready for the big game, there was more on their schedule than just the game.

Football players from the NFL made a trip to visit Marines and Sailors aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Feb. 6 to Feb. 9.

After arriving on island, St. Louis Rams' quarterback Marc Bulger scheduled a tee time at Kaneohe Klipper Golf Course to play a round of golf with two Marines and a Sailor Feb. 6 before heading to Kahuna's Sports Bar and Grill to meet the troops and sign autographs.

The following day, San Diego Chargers' running back and NFL Most Valuable Player, LaDainian Tomlinson, arrived to visit Marines and Sailors of Marine Aircraft Group 24.

While at Hangar 102, Marines assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 gave Tomlinson a tour of a CH-53D Sea Stallion. The Marines explained the capabilities the Sea Stallions have when they are in a combat area.

The squadron then presented Tomlinson with a squadron shirt and unit challenge coin before he began signing autographs.

Once exiting the aircraft, Marines and Sailors quickly reached for their cell phones and called their buddies. "Get over here fast, LaDanian Tomlinson is over here taking pictures and signing auto-

graphs," said one excited Sailor. "This was a different experience," said Tomlinson. "I got to see a day in the life of the Marines. It's one thing to see and hear the things that the Marines do on the television, but when you see it first hand it gives you a greater appreciation for their service.

"I have nothing against the other services, but when I think of a military service that is tough and works hard, I think of the Marines. That's why I decided to come here. It wasn't even close when I made my decision. This was one of the best experiences and I hope to come back and visit these guys again."

Green Bay Packers' defensive end Aaron Kampman was escorted to Water Front Operations where he met the Sailors who watch over the shoreline of the bay.

He then made his way to 3rd Marine Regiment, where he signed autographs and spoke with 3rd Marine Regiment's Commanding Officer Col. Gregory A. Boyle, and the unit's top enlisted, Sgt. Maj. Robert E. Roberts.

"I have spent time visiting the Army before but I have never had the chance to visit the Marines," said Kampman. "I saw this as a great opportunity to come and see the Marines and show my support. Seeing these guys' faces when we visit, and just knowing that they're in their late teens, early twenties and they're training for war, it's a feeling that you can't describe.

"There is a family atmosphere within the Marines. They have the best-developed brotherhood bond and that's really special. Hopefully, I'll get chosen to come back to the Pro Bowl next year so I have the opportunity to come and do this again."

Just as NFL players are warriors



Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree

San Diego Chargers' running back and the National Football League's Most Valuable Player, LaDainian Tomlinson, tours the inside of a CH-53D Sea Stallion with Heavy Marine Helicopter Squadron 463 at Hangar 102 Feb. 7.

on the field, Marines are warriors in combat, and Marines attending the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program Instructors Course gave a demonstration to Kansas City Chiefs' offensive tackle Will Shields and San Francisco 49ers' cornerback Walt Harris Friday at Regimental Schools.

One thing most of these trips had in common was the ending visit to the Kaneohe Bay Rifle Range.

"This was the highlight by far," said Tomlinson. "It's something that we (football players) don't get to do every day like the Marines. To experience what the Marines do every day was a highlight in my trip to Hawaii."



Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree

Green Bay Packers' defensive end, Aaron Kampman, meets Sailors of Water Front Operations Feb. 8 on Marine Corps Base Hawaii. Kampman visited the Marines and Sailors to thank them for their service and to show his support.



Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree

Volunteers from the Single Marine and Sailor Program aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii run with the team flags during the opening ceremony for the 2007 Pro Bowl game at Aloha Stadium in Honolulu, Feb. 10.

SUPPORT, from C-1

Jim Cosper, Single Marine and Sailor Program Coordinator, also had nothing but good things to report on the turnout and devotion shown by the Marine Corps and Army volunteers.

"Everything went so smooth during the game. They flew down the tunnel onto the field in record time," remarked Cosper on the explosiveness of the Marine Corps and Army volunteers on Saturday.

Cosper helped coordinate the volunteer support for the halftime performance. According to the Marine Corps Community Services employee, volunteering for events like this is something that shouldn't be passed up.

"It's a privilege to help during one of the largest events on the island," he said. "It gives us the chance to show our support and be involved in the community."

The halftime support was mainly the responsibility of the Marines, but the Army also played an integral part, according to Cosper.

All volunteers were also able to watch the biggest annual sporting event held on Oahu, but more importantly they got to experience something that doesn't happen every day.

Getting the chance to utilize a high-profile venue like the Pro Bowl is a great way to display the men and women of this country who are making sacrifices every day to pro-

tect this country, said Le Master.

The NFL also gets the chance to extend a true thank you to those same men and women.

After all their work was done, the volunteers got a chance to relax and watch one of the biggest sporting events of the year, which turned out to be one of the most intense Pro Bowls in quite some time.

The American Football Conference edged out the National Football Conference 31-28 after kicker Nate Kaeding kicked a last minute field goal in front of the anxious crowd of 55,000 spectators to secure the win. This was the AFC's 5th time winning the game in the last five years.



Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree
Washington Redskins' free safety, Sean Taylor, runs through the obstacle course during the Open Field event at the National Football League's Pro Bowl Skills challenge, Feb. 8, at the J.W. Marriot Ihilani resort in Koolina.

SKILLS, from C-1

Riley, rifleman, 2/3, who returned home three weeks ago after being hit with an improvised explosive device while on a foot patrol in Al Anbar province. “It’s not a bad event at all. It’s better than sitting around in the barracks and I think that’s why they gave us tickets, to keep us occupied.”

Since returning to Hawaii, the command has been good at giving them things to do to get them out of the barracks and help them rehabilitate from their injuries, said Eric Anderson, a rifleman assigned to 2/3, who also has injuries from an IED.

The Marines were able to come to the skills challenge and watch professional players compete in seven different events including split the uprights, strongest man, best hands, on the mark, and the open field.

In the open field event, players navigated their way through a mini-obstacle course to test their speed and agility. The winner of the event was the Baltimore Raven’s free safety, Ed Reed.

The strongest man event got the most crowd participation



Lance Cpl. Edward C. deBree
Houston Texans' wide receiver, Andre Johnson, goes for the catch in the Best Hands competition during the National Football League's Pro Bowl Skills Challenge.

as the crowd chanted out how many repetitions each player bench-pressed a total of 225-pounds, which was won by San Francisco 49ers’ guard, Larry Allen, with almost 40 repetitions.

The Marines of 2/3 were

glad they were able to watch the event, said Riley.

“It was a good time for us,”

he said. “I just hope that they have extra tickets for us when the actual Pro Bowl comes.”



Intramural baseball standings

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES	TIES
3/3	2	0	0
MAG-24	1	0	0
VP-9	1	0	0
HQBN	2	1	0
3RD RADIO BN	0	1	0
CSSG-3	0	2	0
VP-47	0	2	0

* standings as of Feb. 14

Bowling stats

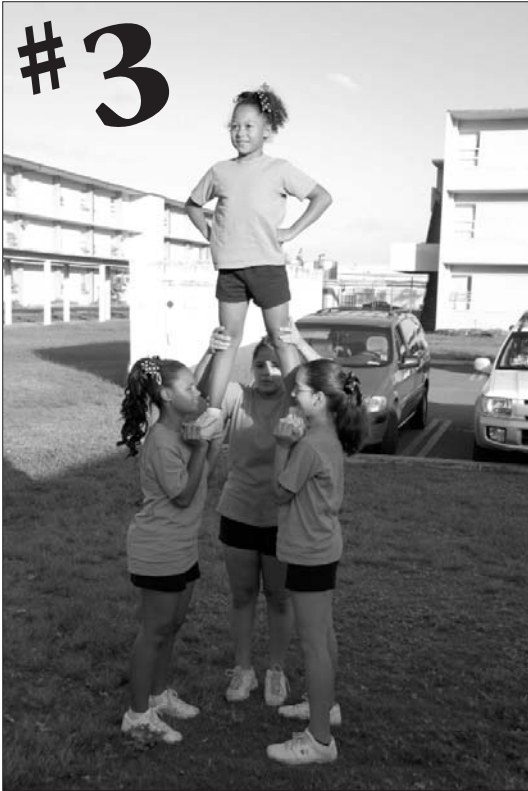
Team Standings										
Place	Team Name	Points Won	Points Lost	Team Ave.	HDCP	Pins plus Handicap	Place	Team Name	Points Won	
1	Team 2	4	0	498	241	2474	11	Team 19	2	
2	Team 3	3	1	650	121	2320	12	Golden Eagle's	1	
3	Band Team 1	3	1	617	145	2313	13	Big Ern's Kids	1	
4	VP-9	3	1	502	236	2268	14	Team 6	1	
5	Pinheads	3	1	533	212	2247	15	The Untouchables	1	
6	Flaming Hookers	3	1	579	175	2245	16	Team Ramrod	1	
7	4th Force Recon	3	1	534	211	2225	17	Da Pin Droppers	1	
8	3 Putts	3	1	488	249	2214	18	Illegal Affairs:ReDux	1	
9	The Blue Ballers	3	1	479	256	2208	19	Team 17	1	
10	Team 20	2	2	556	194	2252	20	Effin' H	0	
Results of Last Week's Bowling....										
Lanes	Team Name	-1-	-2-	-3-	HDCP Total	Last Wk WON		Team Name	-1-	-2-
1-2	Effin' H	679	652	648	1979	0	←---	Team 2	873	804
3-4	Team 3	749	803	768	2320	3	←---	Team Ramrod	663	73
5-6	Band Team 1	782	796	735	2313	3	←---	Team 6	793	68
7-8	Pinheads	705	724	818	2247	3	←---	Golden Eagle's	649	78
9-10	VP-9	761	669	838	2268	3	←---	Da Pin Droppers	744	73
11-12	The Untouchables	754	740	680	2174	1	←---	The Blue Ballers	695	76
13-14	3 Putts	727	736	751	2214	3	←---	Illegal Affairs:ReDux	732	68
15-16	Big Ern's Kids	728	770	715	2213	1	←---	4th Force Recon	710	78
17-18	Team 17	674	771	678	2123	1	←---	Flaming Hookers	702	74
19-20	Team 19	769	705	760	2234	2	←---	Team 20	686	81
Last Week's High Scores for Immediate Release										



Intramural basketball standings

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES
VPU-2	4	1
3/3	6	1
CPRW-2	6	0
MCAF	3	4
HSL-37 “MAROON”	6	1
MESS HALL	4	2
OUTLAWS	5	0
3RD RADIO BN	2	5
POSTAL	2	3
CSSG-3	1	2
VP-9 #1	3	4
HSL-37 “GOLD”	0	5
MALS –24	4	4
VP-9 #2	0	5
IPAC	1	6

* standings as of Feb. 14



Rebekah Ortiz, 13, provides the back base for Stunt Group 1, while Kimberly Sanchez, 13, and Janette Marr, 11, provide the side base support for Iyana Dixon, 8, during practice at the Youth Activities Center here Tuesday. The K-Bay Fighting Force cheer squad is training for the Stars and Stripes Cheerleading Competition March 10.

Youth Activities cheer squad trains for competition

**Story and Photos by
Staff Sgt. Ronna M.
Weyland**
Press Chief

The K-Bay Fighting Force, a Youth Activities cheer squad, is currently training several nights a week in preparation of an upcoming competition.

According to head coach and cheer coordinator, Laura Ortiz, this will be the team’s first competition.

“We started training for the competition last week,” said Ortiz. “The girls are doing great. They have already learned their routine and that is way ahead of our planned schedule.”

The 15-girl cheer squad has been practicing an average of six hours a week.

“We have been practicing performance cheer, straight cheer and pom routines,” said Ortiz.

She said the routines practiced are within U.S. All Star Federation for Cheer and Dance Teams Level 2 standards.

“We start with conditioning first,” said Angela Glew. “Then we teach them the basic motions and then put it together with a cheer before stunting.”

“They have to master the basics before we give them stunts.”

The team is currently scheduled to compete in the Stars and Stripes Cheerleading Competition here March 10.

This will be the first cheer competition with the other military services on island.

The all-volunteer coaching staff running the three-days a week practice focuses on discipline as well.

“Without discipline you don’t have a team,” said Ortiz. “We are really

strict...too much chatter will get them (cheerleaders) running laps.”

She said the girls are dedicated and want to do well.

“These are the kids who want to do it,” said Ortiz. “We focus on the fundamentals and we teach them to win gracefully and lose gracefully.”

This type of coaching has rubbed off on the young athletes.

“We get to do stunts and we get to cheer,” said Emily Ratkowiak, 6, about why

she likes to compete. “(Cheer) also teaches us to work together.”

Ortiz added that in order to stay on the cheer squad the athletes must maintain

good grades and stay out of trouble in school.

The K-Bay Fighting Force also supports the Youth Basketball games held on Saturdays.



Iyana Dixon, 8, is caught by her stunt group’s base after completing the groups routine during practice Tuesday in preparation for their upcoming competition.



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Sports Briefs

K-Bay gamers seeking players

Gamers from Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, are looking for players who want to compete with each other at local tournaments or for the title of “King of K-Bay.” The champion will then represent MCB Hawaii in matches, live, with gamers from other services and duty stations.

You must be an active duty service member to join. Visit www.newtroop.com, a military-only gaming community, for additional information on upcoming tournaments throughout the armed services.

For information, call Cpl. Ryan Trevino at 783-1243.

WISA looking for players

Women’s Over 30 Soccer team is looking for players. League games are Sundays in the fall and spring. Call Kathy for more information and registration: daytime 971-2503, evenings 261-9951.

Armed Forces Cycling

Applications are now being accepted for the 2007 U. S. Armed Forces Cycling Team. The application deadline is Feb. 28. For more information, contact Joe Au or Megan Brophy at the Semper Fit Office or call 254-7591 or 254-7590.

Devil Dogs dodge, duck, dive, dip during dodgeball

Lance Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks

U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific

CAMP H. M. SMITH, Hawaii — The Republicans beat the G-6 Ballers two games to one after battling it out in a hard-hitting, fast-moving dodgeball championship final during a tournament hosted by the Single Marine and Sailor Program here Feb. 2.

With little turnout for the tournament, the Republicans and the G-6 Ballers went straight to the championship.

With dodgeball games usually lasting no more than 10 minutes, the officials let the teams decide how they wanted the final to be played. Both teams agreed on a best-of-three for the championship.

The Ballers had the athletic edge and dominated the Republicans right out of the gate.

They moved in fast, reaching the center line before any of the Republicans had a chance to feel the projectiles’ rubber coating.

One after the other, the Republicans fell to the merciless onslaught of the Ballers. Then, able to knock out a few of the Ballers, the Republicans saw a glimmer of hope.

In dodgeball however, a misplaced ball can make all the hard work go down in flames. When a player catches a ball thrown by his opponent, not

only is his opponent out, but one of his own teammates is brought back in.

That is exactly what happened to the Republicans when the G-6 Ballers took advantage of this rule and the Republican’s glimmer of hope grew dim. Within two minutes, the Ballers had sent all but one of the Republicans to the bench.

“They needed an all-star to beat us,” said Douglas D. Dixon, a Baller’s player. “They wouldn’t have had a chance if it wasn’t for him.”

The “him” was the lone remaining Republican, Paul “the Hit-man” Bowman. Bowman had no fancy moves or even a complex strategy; he simply let his opponents work for him.

“It was easy,” he said. “You just can’t waste your energy and let your opponent set himself up for the hit.”

One by one, “the Hit-man” picked his victims and one by one, they went to the bench. It was more than the Ballers could overcome.

The Ballers didn’t even know what hit them, as Bowman took each one of them down with sniper-like accuracy, allowing the Republicans to clinch the first game of the championship.

Like watching an instant replay, the next game quickly unfolded. The Ballers swiftly knocked out every player on the Republicans’ side of the court except Bowman.



Lance Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks

The Single Marine and Sailor Program hosted a dodgeball tournament at the Camp Smith gym to give Marines a break from normal physical training routines, Feb. 2. The Republicans beat out the G-6 Ballers for the grand prize, which was a seat at the Hawaii World Poker Tournament Preliminary.

The Ballers threw their weapons as hard and as fast as they could, but like polar opposites, they seemed to deflect away from Bowman. His shots, however, moved like red, heat-seeking missiles.

Two blistering wins put the Republicans in the champion’s circle.

As winners of the tournament, the Republicans had to choose one player to receive the grand prize — a seat at the Hawaii World Poker Tournament Preliminary. The winner of that will receive a seat

at the World Poker Tour Tournament, in Commerce, Calif., March 3-5.

After his impressive show of dodgeball skills, Bowman was unanimously chosen as the MVP.

Even though the Ballers went away empty handed they still admit they had a blast.

“The prize is pretty good, but all in all, it’s really just an excuse to do something different and have a little fun,” said Justin E. Park, a player with the G-6 Ballers.

At the end of the tournament,

the teams decided they hadn’t had enough of a beating and played a few games just for fun.

This time however, the Ballers had Bowman’s number and mercilessly singled him out.

“At the end, Bowman and I had a little [competition] going on,” said Dixon. “It seemed his stamina couldn’t hold up, so I took him down.”

All in good fun, the teams continued to battle it out simply for the pleasure of playing.

“It’s just a game like any other,” said Bowman. “It’s supposed to be fun.”

Coming Feb. 24

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‘Bring a Towel’

Air Force bests sister services in football challenge

Lance Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks
U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific

HONOLULU — Service members from every branch of the military laced up their cleats, warmed up and stretched out to compete in the Pro Bowl Football Festival Military Challenge at the Queen Kapiolani Park here, Feb. 9.

This event was just one of the many that had been put on during Pro Bowl week, but one that is of great importance, according to Brent Camalich, the Pro Bowl Football Festival coordinator.

“This event is significant because of the great deal of military history and presence here on this island,” he said. “It would seem wrong to not show our gratitude for what they do.”

During the Military Challenge, the five teams’ football skills were tested in five different events. The winner of each event would receive five points, four points for second, three points for third, two points for fourth and one point for fifth.

The teams were composed of six players.

The first event of the challenge was a 40-yard-dash relay. The Air Force team, which won the challenge last year, was the first to run this event. With a combined time of 29.78 seconds they set the bar high.

The Marines would come in second with 30.25 seconds. The Army took third with a time of 30.91 seconds. The Navy was right behind the Army with a run time of 31.03 seconds and the Coast Guard completed the event in 33.44 seconds.

The next event was field goal kicks. It involved two players from each team. One player would hold the ball, while the other would try his luck from 25 yards out. Each kicker was given 10 attempts.

The Air Force kicker, Richard Good, set up his first kick with a look of confidence and with good reason. One, two, three, four... every kick sailed high, right down the middle in near perfect form. After being taunted by the crowd to kick it higher, some of his kicks even went over the barrier behind the posts. Completing nine out of the 10 goals, he earned his team another first-place victory. On his last kick he put on a little show for the crowd and backed up ten more yards, but the kick sailed just a little wide.

The Army came in second with a solid performance of eight out of 10 goals. The Navy matched the Army with eight and the Marine Corps kicker, Ryan Johnson, a Springfield, La., native put up seven, which was enough for third place. The Coast Guard kicker made five out of his ten attempts.



Lance Cpl. R. Drew Hendricks

Harold Wallace, a member of the Marine team and a native of Riviera, Fla., snaps the ball toward the target of the long snap competition during the Pro Bowl Football Festival Military Challenge at Queen Kapiolani Park Feb. 8.

The third event was the long punt. To add more of a challenge, the event was not judged solely on distance, but on accuracy as well. Each team’s punter was given three attempts. The yardage of the punt was calculated by the distance from the starting point and subtracted by the distance from the center line. For instance, the Coast Guard’s first kick went 24

yards, but was three yards off center, which would gave him a net yardage of 21 yards.

The Marine Corps, in second place overall, had their eyes on first. Chris Young, a Lancaster, Wash., native kicked their punts. After his three attempts, he clinched first place in the event with a score of 106 net yards.

The Air Force was unable to

knock the Marines out of first and took second, losing by one yard in the event. The Navy botched their attempt with only 89 total yards. The Army finished the event with 74 yards, and the Coast Guard went away with 56 yards.

After the long punt, the teams would have to put their aim into practice in the long snap event. This event required the service

member to snap a ball through a hole in a cut-out of a punter.

In this event, which seemed to be the hardest for the competitors, the Navy put up four completed snaps and took their first, first-place position. The Coast Guard took second with two.

The Marine Corps’ long-snapper, Harold Wallace, a Riviera, Fla., native was only able to put one through the target. The Air Force tied with the Marines for third. The Army snapper left his team with a goose egg.

With four events down and only one more to go, the Air Force was still in the lead, while the Marine Corps and the Navy were tied for second. The Army and the Coast Guard were too far behind to catch first place overall, but were still willing to go for it in the last event, which was the passing competition.

The passing event required one player from each team to act as the quarterback. The rest played as receivers. The teams were given two balls, which had to be run back to the quarterback in order for him to throw again. A pass completed from 10 yards out was worth one point, 20 yards was worth two and 30 yards was worth three.

The Army set the pace with 25 points, while the Navy managed

to pick up 21 and the Air Force completed enough passes for 20.

The Marine Corps had to win this event in order to tie for first place overall. Each throw from Johnson was right on target, but with time clicking away the Marines’ pace seemed to dwindle. On the last pass they needed three points to beat the Army’s score and tie for first place. Unable to get the last pass off in time, the Marines would have to settle for 23 points and second place.

For the second year in a row the Air Force took the win in the Military Challenge.

“It was a little too close for comfort this year though,” said Nate Allen, the Air Force team captain. “The Marine Corps brings it every year and this year they made it especially hard on us.”

The Air Force was presented the Pro Bowl Military Challenge trophy and personal medals to commemorate their victory.

At the end of the day, most of the competitors were simply happy to be out on the field having fun.

“I thought we had it in the end, but still, seeing all the support and pride the crowd had in us made it worthwhile,” said Kevin Martin, the Marine team captain. “Today was a success, but we will be back to take it home next year.”